

REMARKS

Claims 146-302 are pending; claims 209-225, 231-276, and 278-293 have been withdrawn; and claims 146-208, 226-230, 277 and 294-302 have been rejected in this application. Claims 146, 226, 230, 277, and 294 have been amended; and claim 157 has been canceled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 146-151, 173, 179, 191, 195, 202, 204-208, 226, 227, 230, 277, and 294-302 as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0136018 (Herman, et al.), Applicants have amended claims 146, 226, 230, 277, and 294, canceled claim 157, and submit that claims 146-151, 173, 179, 191, 195, 202, 204-208, 226, 227, 230, 277, and 294-302 are now in condition for allowance.

Herman et al., which is US Patent No. 7,150,110, disclose a method and an apparatus for manufacturing of fiber web provided with a three-dimensional surface structure (Figs. 1-6). Apparatus 10 provides for the manufacture of a fiber web 12 provided with a three-dimensional surface structure in which a dewatering apparatus 34 is utilized having a foam coating. The foam coating is selected such that the pores are in a range from approximately 3 μm to approximately 6 μm (paragraph 63). Felt 36 with a foamed layer is guided together with an imprinting band 14 and fiber web 12 interposed therebetween about a large suction roll 38. Felt 36 is in contact with suction roll 38. Suction roll 38 may have a diameter from approximately 2 m to approximately 3 m. Suction roll 38 can have a vacuum applied to its lower side (paragraph 65). A former with two peripheral dewatering bands 14 and 42 run together while forming a pulped run in the gap and are guided over a forming element 46. Imprinting band 14 comes into contact with forming element 46. Outer band 42 does not come into contact with forming element 46 (paragraphs 67 and 68). Fiber web 12 is pressed and sucked to form a dry content in the web of less than 25%, and particularly less than 15%,

and preferably less than 10% (paragraph 72).

In contrast, claim 146 recites in part:

said permeable dewatering fabric includes a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex;

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Herman, et al., or any of the other references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Herman et al., which is US Patent No. 7,150,110, disclose a method and an apparatus for manufacturing of fiber web provided with a three-dimensional surface structure. A former with two peripheral dewatering bands run together while forming a pulped run in the gap and are guided over a forming element. The imprinting band comes into contact with the forming element. In contrast, Applicants' invention has a vector layer in the dewatering fabric. The vector layer having fibers that have a dtex value of at least 67, which is not disclosed in the cited prior art. Therefore, Herman, et al., and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose, or suggest a permeable dewatering fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex, as recited in claim 146.

Applicants' invention has distinct advantages in that the vector layer aids in the dewatering of the web, particularly having the fibers of 67 dtex or above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 146, and claims 147-208 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 226 recites in part:

said permeable dewatering fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex;

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Herman, et al., or any of the other references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Herman et al., which is US Patent No. 7,150,110, disclose a method and an apparatus for manufacturing of fiber web provided with a three-dimensional surface structure. A former with two peripheral dewatering bands run together while forming a pulped run in the gap and are guided over a forming element. The imprinting band comes into contact with the forming element. In contrast, Applicants' invention has a vector layer in the dewatering fabric. The vector layer having fibers that have a dtex value of at least 67, which is not disclosed in the cited prior art. Therefore, Herman, et al., and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose, or suggest a permeable dewatering fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex, as recited in claim 226.

Applicants' invention has distinct advantages in that the vector layer aids in the dewatering of the web, particularly having the fibers of 67 dtex or above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 226, and claims 227-229 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

In yet further contrast, claim 230 recites in part:

said permeable dewatering fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex;

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Herman, et al., or any of the other references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Herman et al., which is US Patent No. 7,150,110, disclose a method and an apparatus for manufacturing of fiber web provided with a three-dimensional surface structure. A former with two peripheral dewatering bands run together while forming a pulped run in the gap and are guided over a forming element. The imprinting band comes into contact with the forming element. In contrast, Applicants' invention has a vector layer in the dewatering fabric. The vector layer having fibers that have a dtex value of at least 67, which is not disclosed in the cited prior art. Therefore, Herman, et al., and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose, or suggest a permeable dewatering fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex, as recited in claim 230.

Applicants' invention has distinct advantages in that the vector layer aids in the dewatering of the web, particularly having the fibers of 67 dtex or above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 230 is now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

In yet still further contrast, claim 277 recites in part:

at least one of said first fabric and said second fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex;

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Herman, et al., or any of the other references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Herman et al., which is US Patent No. 7,150,110, disclose a method and an apparatus for manufacturing of fiber web provided with a three-dimensional surface structure. A former with two peripheral dewatering bands run together while forming a pulped run in the gap and are guided over a forming element. The imprinting band comes into contact with the forming element. In contrast,

Applicants' invention has a vector layer in at least one of the two fabrics. The vector layer having fibers that have a dtex value of at least 67, which is not disclosed in the cited prior art. Therefore, Herman, et al., and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose, or suggest the first fabric or the second fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex, as recited in claim 277.

Applicants' invention has distinct advantages in that the vector layer aids in the dewatering of the web, particularly having the fibers of 67 dtex or above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 277 is now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

In yet still further contrast, claim 294 recites in part:

at least one of said first fabric and said second fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex;

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Herman, et al., or any of the other references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Herman et al., which is US Patent No. 7,150,110, disclose a method and an apparatus for manufacturing of fiber web provided with a three-dimensional surface structure. A former with two peripheral dewatering bands run together while forming a pulped run in the gap and are guided over a forming element. The imprinting band comes into contact with the forming element. In contrast, Applicants' invention has a vector layer in at least one of the two fabrics. The vector layer having fibers that have a dtex value of at least 67, which is not disclosed in the cited prior art. Therefore, Herman, et al., and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose, or suggest the first fabric or the second fabric including a vector layer which contains fibers which

are equal to or greater than approximately 67 dtex, as recited in claim 294.

Applicants' invention has distinct advantages in that the vector layer aids in the dewatering of the web, particularly having the fibers of 67 dtex or above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 294, and claims 295-302 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 152-172, 174-178, 180-190, 192-194, 196-201, 203, 228, and 229 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Herman, et al. in view of US Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0167067 (Crook, et al.). However, claims 152-172, 174-178, 180-190, 192-194, 196-201 and 203 depend from claim 146; and claims 228 and 229 depend from claim 226; and claims 146 and 226 are now in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 152-172, 174-178, 180-190, 192-194, 196-201, 203, 228, and 229 are now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 146, 226, 277, and 294 have been rejected on the basis of a non-statutory obviousness type double patenting over US Patent No. 7,476,294. However, Applicants have amended these claims incorporating an element that is not claimed in US Patent No. 7,476,294. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 146, 226, 277, and 294 are now in condition for allowance as currently amended, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 146, 226, 230, 277, and 294 have been rejected on the basis of a non-statutory obviousness type double patenting over US Patent No. 7,476,293. However, Applicants have amended these claims incorporating an element that is not claimed in US Patent No. 7,476,293. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 146, 226, 230, 277, and 294 are now in condition for allowance as currently amended, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 230, 277, and 294 have been rejected on the basis of a non-statutory obviousness type double patenting over US Patent No. 7,351,307. However, Applicants have amended these claims incorporating an element that is not claimed in US Patent No. 7,351,307. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 230, 277, and 294 are now in condition for allowance as currently amended, the allowance of which being hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR IP, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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